

For immediate release

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*Congressman Sires Votes Yes on Foreign Operations Bill Supporting Security at Home and Abroad*

Washington, D.C. – Yesterday, Congressman Sires joined his colleagues in supporting H.R. 3081, the Fiscal Year 2010 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations, which passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 318 to 106. H.R. 3081 makes a number of key investments to protect our national security by promoting democracy and alleviating global poverty. The bill provides funding for 1000 new Foreign Service Staff Positions, 300 additional Foreign Service Officers for USAID, and allows the government to strengthen global public health infrastructure in order to protect the health of Americans and save lives overseas.

“It is important to remember that investing in aid, diplomacy, and health care abroad helps ensure our safety at home. This funding works to promote democracy and improve the quality of life through investment in education and health programs,” said Congressman Sires. “I am also pleased to support funding to expand the Peace Corps efforts around the globe,” added Congressman Sires.

Specifically, the bill provides \$450 million to the Peace Corps, \$5.7 billion for international HIV/AIDS prevention, and \$1.4 billion for the Millennium Challenge Corporation, an aid program which creates partnerships to put countries on a path to economic and social stability. Overall, the bill’s funding level is \$2 billion below the President’s request, further illustrating the House of Representatives’ commitment to fiscal responsibility. H.R. 3081 awaits Senate action.